

The Times.

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THE TIMES COMPANY.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1898.

CURIOUS INSTANCES OF MISGUIDED FRIENDSHIP.

The Jefferson Commercial Club, of Jefferson, Texas, has sent us a copy of a pamphlet it has printed, containing a petition to the Congress of the United States for an appropriation to improve the navigation of the waters that connect Jefferson City with the Red river, and that until a recent period, gave the city a waterway to New Orleans, that enabled steamboats to come to and go from Jefferson at all seasons of the year. A perusal of the documents contained in this pamphlet discloses one of the most astonishing cases of well-meant kindness operating for the destruction of the beneficiary that we have ever seen.

The city of Jefferson is in Marion county, Texas, at the head of a stream that is partly made up of a lake and a bayou that make an uninterrupted connection with the Red river. A formation in Red river, made by sunken logs, drift wood, &c., which, however, permitted passage for steamers, dammed the stream so as to make a back water flow through the bayou to Jefferson that made her navigable water way, and this state of affairs continued until some ten or fifteen years ago, Jefferson was then a place of very great importance. It had over twenty thousand inhabitants, and being at the head of water transportation, it was the distributing point for a great back country, extending to the Mexican border and up into the Indian Territory. It was one of the briskest and most active places in the United States. But the Government determined to improve Red River, and proceeded to take out of it the logs and drift wood that created the dam. As soon as it did this the water ran out of the bayou, the navigable stream became a paddy bog, and Jefferson lost her waterway, and her commerce with it. The city has steadily gone down ever since until it has not now more than 4,000 inhabitants, and now after row of houses that constituted offices and depots, where immense business was transacted twenty years ago, are vacant now and crumbling down, and Jefferson appeals to the Government to restore the dam it so improvidently destroyed and return to her the commerce of which she has been so unjustly deprived. It is the most meritorious case of an appeal for national aid that we have ever met with, and we sincerely hope that every Virginia senator and congressman will read this pamphlet and aid Jefferson in what she asks for to the fullest of his ability.

In distributing the Government's money in aid of internal improvements, the Congress of the United States should be mindful that there are places not so pretentious as New York and Boston, but places that have just as strong a claim upon the equity of the Government as New York and Boston have, strong as their claims are. Virginia, for instance, is equitably entitled to demand that the Government shall spend \$3,000,000 upon James river. It started that improvement with the declaration that it would spend \$4,000,000, and, upon the faith of that representation, Richmond has spent \$300,000 of its money upon the river. There is no place in the Union where the Government could spend \$3,000,000 with better prospect of a return to the whole people than on the James river. It would give the Government a shipbuilding plant, in the W. J. Trigg plant, absolutely secure from foreign attack, where our warships could be built and repaired without the slightest risk from the enemy in case of war. The plant is here now, and all that it needs to make it a paramount success is the expenditure of \$2,000,000 by the Government to give us twenty-five feet of water to the sea.

Congress should answer Jefferson's appeal with an appropriation sufficient to undo the wrong it has unwittingly done, and it should make the appropriation for James river that it promised us. We say this is no sort of disparagement to the claims of other places for aid.

GREETING TO GEN. WHEELER.

We are gratified to know that General Joe Wheeler has just visited Richmond as the guest of Lee Camp. General Wheeler did not make much

ada when the jingoes were talking about fighting, but when the time for action came he buckled on his sword and offered his services to his government. He went to the front, and although a sick man, he led the forces and gave such a splendid account of himself as he did when he wore the gray and fought for Southern rights.

He is distinctly the Southern hero of the occasion, and we of Richmond shall do ourselves honor in honoring him. He is the typical Southern gentleman and statesman. He is for the flag and his services are always at the country's call. He is true to the Union to-day because he was true to his own State when it was at war with the Union. Loyalty and duty are Joe Wheeler's watch words.

WHY THE LAW IS NOT ENFORCED.

Every now and then some newspaper in the South, being aroused to the pitch of indignation by the murderous use of a pistol, which the murderer had concealed about his person comes out in a double-headed demand for the enforcement of the law against the carrying of concealed weapons. Our contemporaries always make the point that if the law is to be regarded as a dead letter, it should be stricken from the statute books, but that if it is to be retained, it should be rigidly enforced.

In our opinion, this law will never be rigidly enforced, and we very much doubt if it accomplishes any good purpose. It all comes back to the question of summary laws. There is really no harm in carrying a pistol, and the Constitution gives to every American citizen the right to bear arms. Many a man has carried a pistol from his early manhood to the day of his death without ever having shot a human being, and many very good citizens, although we think that they are mistaken, conscientiously believe that it is necessary under some circumstances for them to carry a weapon, in order to their personal protection.

In view of these facts it is simply impossible to make it in the estimation of the public a great crime for a man to carry a pistol. Therefore it is impossible to get the Legislature up to the point of providing such a punishment for the offense as would have the effect to break it up. The fine of twenty dollars that is now imposed deters no man from pistol-toting. He knows that the chances of detection are small, and those who are addicted to this habit are so much in love with it that they are willing to pay twenty dollars now and then for the privilege. Therefore when our contemporaries talk about "enforcing the law," they simply make the pistol-toters smile.

We do not believe that the practice can be broken up by law, for the reason that if the Legislature should enact a law severe enough to make men fear the penalty, public sentiment would not sustain it. There are those who hold that pistol-toting should be punished by imprisonment in the common jail, but such a law would not be tolerated. The first time the penalty was inflicted on some reputable citizen there would be such a popular outcry as that the law would fall into disrepute, and would be repealed by the Legislature next sitting.

The only remedy for this, and like offenses—those things that are not wrong except in the abuse of them—is to educate public sentiment. Let us try to convince the general public that it is both cowardly and dangerous to carry concealed weapons. By and by all brave and honorable men will frown upon the practice, and the law may then be as severe as necessary on the offenders.

THE NEGRO IN THE BIBLE.

Sometime ago when the negro question was under discussion we said that man who by Scriptural injunction was given dominion over all things was the white man, and that as for the black man he had never exercised dominion even over his own peculiar continent. The article attracted attention at the North and seems to have been to a measure surprising to some of our contemporaries in that section, but it cannot be surprising to any student of Bible history.

In the ninth chapter of the Book of Genesis we read: "And Noah began to be a husbandman and he planted a vineyard." "And he drank of the wine and was drunken; and was uncovered within his tent." "And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers without."

"And Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father; but their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done unto him, and he said Cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren."

"And he said Blessed be the Lord God of Shem. And Canaan shall be his servant." "God shall enlarge Japheth and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant."

A distinguished commentator says in this connection that almost every prediction in the Scriptures relative to the Egyptians, Canaanites, Tyrians and Sidonians is comprehended in this repeated curse of Canaan. That almost every prediction relative to the Assyrians, Chaldeans, Persians, and Arabs, is included in the blessing of Shem. That almost every prediction relative to the Greeks, Romans, Goths, Tartars and Turks, and especially what relates to the Gospel-church among the Gentiles, is contained in the blessing of Japheth.

ascended from Japheth, multitudes of the Western Africans were formerly bought for slaves by the English, the Spaniards, the French, the Portuguese and Dutch and condemned to drudgery in America. If we had the space we might go on at length to show the various instances of the subjugation of the descendants of Ham by the descendants of Shem and Japheth, but it is enough to say, and the reader may ascertain it for himself if he will take the trouble to read the authorities, that the Hamites as a race have been "servants of servants," and they have been in a state of perpetual servitude under the Semitic Israelites and the Japhetic Greeks, Romans and Saxons almost until this day.

We say these things not in any spirit of unkindness or of arrogance. We are quoting history. The descendants of Ham have always been the inferior race and always will be, and in this day of enlightenment and of the highest civilization it is simply preposterous that the great Anglo-Saxon race should permit those who are descended from the accursed Ham and who came from the savagery of the dark continent to rule over them. Slavery, thank God, is a thing of the past and there will be no more of it. Our civilization will not tolerate that even the inferior race shall be enslaved. There is now throughout the whole world a popular demand for the liberty of individuals, and our civilization will not tolerate that any human being, and especially any woman, shall be the chattel of a man. But it must not be forgotten that this liberty to the black man is the voluntary gift of the white man. Had the white man so chosen, the black man would have been his slave to-day, and should the white man so elect, the black man would be his slave to-morrow. The white man, however, chooses differently. He wants the black man to have his liberty and enjoy it, but as for this country, it is the white man's possession and he will never consent that the black man shall dispute his claim.

There you have the ethics of the negro question, and if you ask our authority we point you to the Holy Scriptures, to the predictions that were made in the beginning and to the fulfillment which we have above pointed out.

LABOR AND SOCIALISM.

A resolution was introduced last Friday in the Convention of the American Federation of Labor, now in session at Kansas City, providing that "this convention, believing that the labor problems will be solved only when the lands and means of production and distribution and exchange are held as common property, and that the trades union movement, together with political action on class lines, are the best methods to reach this end, we therefore commend trades unionists to vote only for such political parties as stand for the principles enunciated therein."

This is socialism pure and simple, and although the resolutions were not then and there adopted, the reading of them was greeted with an outburst of applause, showing that there is a strong sentiment inside of the organization in favor of absolute socialism.

We are no alarmist, but we have time and again sounded the note of warning through these columns, that socialism is growing in this country and that the movement is a thing that is not to be ridiculed. Socialism is a most fascinating theory, and visionary people who read such books as Bellamy's "Looking Backward" cannot but fall in love with the beautiful and amiable society which he pictures.

But the members of the Federation of Labor are not the only persons who have been propagating this doctrine in the United States. Scratch a rampant free-silver, Populist, Democrat, so-called, and you will find a socialist. The Chicago Democracy went as far in the direction of socialism as it dared, and it is largely responsible for the spirit of socialism which manifested itself in the labor convention at Kansas City. The tendency of the Chicago Democracy is towards Populism; the tendency of Populism is towards socialism. There is no middle ground between pure Democracy and pure socialism and those who halt half-way are illegals. Democracy says let the government have just as little as possible to do with the business affairs of life; let it confine itself to its true functions as outlined in the constitution; let it stand by Mr. Jefferson's motto of hands off. The Populist says let the government have partial government control; let the government take charge of the transportation lines and of all enterprises controlled by trusts. The Socialist says if government control is good in one thing, it is good in all things. Therefore let the "hands and means of production and distribution and exchange be held as common property." Either Democracy is right or socialism is right, and, therefore, logically, there can be no middle ground.

A Southern exchange says in palliation of lynching in the South that they are not premeditated. That is our trouble with these acts of lawlessness. If men would only "pre-meditate," if they would calmly and coolly deliberate, there would be fewer lynchings and the poor victims would have a better chance. But the mob always acts on impulse and under the excitement and indignation of the moment. It does not regard questions of fact and evidence; it does not consider consequences. It is infuriated and it wants a victim on whom to vent its wrath. It is, therefore, easily convinced of the suspect's guilt and cares nothing for the rules of evidence. O, if the mob would only reflect!

The Richmond Times warns us not to be on the "short" side of the market; but we note that in quoting from the Virginian-Pilot it is always "short" of the point we make—leaving that out altogether.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

That is too bad. We assure our contemorary that the omission is not intentional. It requires a very keen perception—but never mind about that. Let our contemporary sharpen its pencil and we will try to sharpen our wit.

The officers seem to have some difficulty in sinking an obstruction in the channel of young Mr. Barnes.

The little boys have another whole week in which to be good, and the big ones just two weeks before the annual swearing off begins.

If Congressman Roberts brings three

wives to Washington it will be a bold member who introduces the resolution to expel him.

A dispatch says: "The ashes of Caesar have been found." Some time ago we heard that "Imperious Caesar dead, and turned to clay, might stop a hole to keep the wind away." Ah, somebody found the hole.

A fellow is liable to cut some ice with the girl to whom he gives a fine pair of skates this Christmas.

Dewey says: "I am now ready to hold this position against the world." There, now, Sampson may just as well not expect to be admiral.

McKinley tossed a bouquet at the Confederate graves and then drove around with Booker Washington. The President plays no favorites. He caught them all that time.

Jim Corbett is to open a bar-room in Havana. This is a fine argument in favor of keeping all the islands possible.

Contrary to the usual laws of extermination, the New York courts have sentenced the male badger.

Those folks who are questioning the constitutional right to hold the Philippines should refer to the exclamation of that great statesman, Tim Campbell, of New York: "What is the Constitution between friends?"

There is much talk of the appointment of Hon. Joseph H. Choate as Ambassador to England. But was he born in Ohio?

The Spaniards have called us pigs. But just wait until McKinley sends to the Court of St. James the great American Choate.

Detroit will be two hundred years old in 1861, and here at last, is one good thing in Michigan that old man Pingree cannot claim to have originated.

Now we have the four trust, and no more "briding monopoly" could hardly be imagined.

Senator Vest finds the Dred Scott decision, wrapped in a stocking, a terrible weapon with which to sandbag the imperialists.

The farmer continues to raise good crops every year and the agriculturalists to raise sheep all the time.

It is surely a bad plight when the lunatic asylum don't want a man and the penitentiary won't have him.

Senator Faulkner discards the idea of Bryan in 1899 and says he is for an able leader now in the United States Senate. Of course, there is nothing personal in this, and yet it is a puzzle.

Will well-filled cans or brimming pots Up to the top cause cream to jump? Can all the heavens the homely truth deny—

The Milky Way leads but to the pump.

The dipping-pens may prove the write way to obliterate the cattle quarantine.

The baseball magnates are in session selling players, and, of course, the best batter brings the most dough.

Borrowing Trouble.

Softly out of the house he slid And caught up the little sled, And dodged around the corner there Of the friendly old woodshed.

But just as he started down the hill On the snow for a glorious slide, His daddy sled to the little shed And he pulled him right inside.

The woodshed floor right then grew damp With the tears that he would shed, And home he slid without a sled, On his sister's little sled.

Doomed to Married Life.

"What a little word 'Yes' is." "That's so."

"But what a long sentence follows it sometimes."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Choice Make.

"I want to get a typewriter for my husband." "Any particular make, ma'am?"

"Well, I heard a business friend tell my husband that his typewriter was a 'Little Peach.' Have you that make?"—Brooklyn Life.

Curiosity.

"I always want introductions to long-haired men." "Why?"

"I like to discover what subjects they are foolish on."—Chicago Record.

A Cash Clearance.

"Cordelia is selling everything to go ahead again." "She?"

"Yes; she offered to sell me her bicycle and her engagement to Mr. Jim."—Chicago Record.

Valid Defence.

The Judge: You are arrested for running the end of an umbrella into this man's eyes. Have you anything to say in your defence?

The Man: Yes, your honor, I have. The umbrella was not mine.—Yonker's Statesman.

Dead Stew.

Pete: What's that hangin' up thar? Sae: That's mistletoe. It's an English custom.

Pete: Oh, yes, I've heard of it. But I say, Sae, them English fellows must be dead slow if they need anything like that to help them out.—Truth.

Getting at the Facts.

Insurance Agent: Pardon me, madam, but what is your age? Miss Antiquate: I have seen 22 summers.

Insurance Agent: Yes, of course; but how many times did you see them?—Chicago News.

Up in Fractions.

Mamma: Bewie, how many sisters has your new playmate? Bessie: He has one, mamma. He tried to fool me by saying that he had two little sisters, but he didn't know that I've studied arithmetic.—Taconic Ledger.

Plenty of Them About.

"She is so aristocratic; says she never will marry a man who is in business for himself."

"How particular! I dare say she prefers some one more like herself—in everybody's else business."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

PEOPLE AND POLITICS.

BY AN OBSERVER.

These are times for policy. Every body is discussing policy. As we view Mr. McKinley with his treaty of peace on his hands, we ask the question, "What will he do with it?" Among the notable contributions on the subject growing out of the recent war, none is more interesting than Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's article in the December number of Scribner's Magazine. Who is Mr. Chamberlain? The reader who has not read a typical Englishman who made his fortune in the manufacturing business, and then went with vigor and success into politics. He is now Colonial Secretary for the United Kingdom; and he topped out his many exhibitions of fine sense and successful deals by marrying a handsome American girl. In the office over which he presides center the affairs of sixteen millions of square miles of the earth's surface. Hence what Mr. Joseph Chamberlain says should carry about as much weight as that coming from any other individual in the world. He reviews the past feelings between the United States and England, contrasts it with the present cordiality, and sums it all up in the sentence, "There is hardly any length to which the United Kingdom would not go in response to American advances, and they would not shrink even from an alliance against the world. If need should ever arise in defense of the ideals of the Anglo-Saxon race, of humanity, justice, freedom and equality of opportunity," that phrase "equality of opportunity" is a noble and catchy one. Condensed in that can be found almost the whole of America's declaration of independence, the teachings of Thomas Jefferson, and the creed of the Democratic party. Mr. Chamberlain goes on and says that neither England nor America desires an offensive or defensive alliance. He simply asks, England and America to just "keep in touch" with each other so that in common pursuits, they may reach out and feel each other near. He refers to Washington's farewell address, approves the same, and says that all that England can expect of America is a temporary alliance for extraordinary emergencies, which is a quotation itself from Washington's farewell address. He elides our history, language, literature, law and history, and says that the point of view from which both these nations look at everything. He calls it their "common sense." He refers to the statement of Mrs. Browning that "the United States and England are the only two nations in the world that do or can rise to the height of unselfish motive." He glorifies in England's strength, and says that she "does not ask the aid of any one in difficulties which may result where her own interests are concerned," but in order to illustrate where England and America could act together in matters of the Armenian massacres, and says that if England had had America to stand by her then, they could have achieved a bloodless victory for humanity, whereas, if England had not been alone, she would have been left in complete isolation. If not inquiring the active hostility of the world; and, then, again, he mentions the present condition in China, and says with the same intention to assist, England can "secure to all the world an equal opportunity in regard to this commerce." He says China is the greatest potential market in the world to-day. It contains "four hundred million people," and it is "the most fertile, the most industrious people and the most trade and commerce, all nations should strive and none should have preferential markets. Then he turns to the great struggle of the future which he sums up in the phrase, "The struggle of the tropics." He says 75 per cent. of England's whole foreign trade is with the tropics, and that 40 per cent. of the United States' foreign trade is with the tropics, and calls attention to the fact that England "opens all the markets which it controls to the citizens of other nations on exactly the same terms that it offers to its own subjects," but says that other nations get possession, wherever they endeavor to exclude all other trade except their own, and keep for themselves a protected market.

Another part of his article invites us into colonial expansion, and calls attention to that fact of what small white garrisons are necessary in England's possessions, and with what ease England rule the colonies. But whether he has accepted his invitation in that direction or not, he heartily rejoices in the "co-operation of the United States in the great work of tropical civilization." And he slaps at Europe in the face with this severe argument, saying that the nations of the continent of Europe, the Englishman has nothing to learn, except what to avoid.

Mr. Chamberlain's article is an important contribution to the present important situation of our country. It is well worthy of our closest attention. Leaving out of the question altogether the extension of American citizenship to the Spanish Islands, and the Philippine Islands, we repeat now what we said months ago, that the best thing about this war is the smashing of the protectionists' argument, and the exposure of their selfish humbug. When Mr. McKinley declared his policy of "the open door" at Manila, he stumbled, blundered, and fell sprawling into the very arms of the free traders. And the very manufacturers of America, out of whom Mr. McKinley had "fry the fat" for political campaigns, and who were always gathered around the Capitol at Washington whenever a tariff bill was under discussion, illustrating most aptly the old quotation, "Where the carcass is, there the eagles are gathered together," these very men themselves have temporarily forgotten their exclusiveness, and have sent their agents over seas to arrange for their extensive exports. We are reaching out for the trade of the world. The people living in temperate zones largely supply their own wants, and under modern civilization it is nearly impossible for one nation to bear the expense of transporting its wares to another nation in temperate climates and there underbid the home manufacturer. A nation that lives in the climate in which the United States is and has all the advantages that our government has, is inevitably unjust to its citizens to erect a wall of protection around them, to simply turn the wheel to be a prey to the trusts and combine in their own borders. But the trade of the tropics is another question, and for that America should enter the lists and enter to win. It means that we should go to all our fine Southern harbors, and sea-coast cities will grow as never before whenever America takes hold in good earnest of the idea of extending her foreign trade. Let California and all of the great West look after the trade with China and Japan and the Philippines, and it will make them rich and powerful. Let the great East supply and under modern civilization it is nearly impossible for one nation to bear the expense of transporting its wares to another nation in temperate climates and there underbid the home manufacturer. 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